



# Building Connections

Vermont WoodNet is a coalition of woodworkers and wood product businesses whose primary mission is to strengthen business opportunities for small-scale Vermont wood product businesses that produce "Vermont Made" products and to foster a commitment to the sustainability of the forest resources.

June 2006

Volume 5, Number 3

### Mark your calendars

- June 22 WoodNet Quarterly Meeting at 7pm. At The Community Woodworkers Shop in Colchester
- June 16-18 Design Competition Gallery Event at Vermont Law School
- July 25-28 Las Vegas World Market Trade Show
- Sept 30-Oct 1 VT Fine Furniture and Woodworking Festival. Woodstock, VT
- Oct 27-29 Providence Fine Furnishings Show

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### WoodNet Receives USDA Grant

Vermont WoodNet has received a \$45K Rural Business Enterprise Grant from USDA Rural Development which will enable our organization to market the work of its 144 members in arenas never before possible. This ability to showcase the fine quality and varied craftsmanship will enable us to improve our business at the member owned Vermont MapleWood Gallery in Stowe, VT and also directly to individual members for unique and special one of a kind items. Our membership is capable of building *anything* out of wood, and this grant will allow us to bring that message to the marketplace within Vermont and outside the state in the global market place as well.

### WoodNet Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly Meeting: June 22 at The Community Woodworkers Shop in Colchester at 7pm. Steve Sturgis will be our host and will give a tour of his facility.

Topic: Those attending the meeting will share their reasons why they like or do not like a particular tools or shop technique. Often times we can learn as much or more from something that was not good or didn't work for someone.

Take I89 to Exit 16. Go East on Roosevelt Hwy (Rt 2) for ¼ mile. Turn right onto Hercules Drive. The Shop is on the right as you go around the sharp corner.

### WoodNet Receives Forests/Parks/Recreation Grant

Through the efforts of Robert (Bob) De Geus, Vermont WoodNet has received a \$20K grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and funded by money brought to Vermont by Senator Patrick Leahy. The uses of the funds from this grant are very specific. They can be used to pay our administrator's salary at the Gallery, develop a work plan to increase WoodNet membership in the NEK, and develop a work plan to increase availability of certified wood in small quantities.

### Providence Show

After considerable discussion, the decision was made to focus the VCRD grant help for a regional show on the Providence Fine Furniture show. Those who had attended last years show expressed a comfort level with the professional manner in which the show was produced. In addition, the fact that the show is open to the public is a major advantage to small/medium producers who do most of their sales at retail level.

Demographics of attendees at his event show an average household income of over \$120k of which 20% are interior designers. People attend from the east coast states from Maine to New Jersey.

In addition, permission has been obtained to include benchwork demonstrations on site to reinforce the image of Vermont Craftsmanship.

The show will be at the Rhode Island Convention Center from Oct 27-29. If your interested in being part of this effort contact Judy Balch at 802-695-2542 or balch@charter.net.

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### Update on FSC Certified Member

Currently we have 25 certified members as part of VT WoodNet's group FSC certificate. Of those, seven are newly certified members. The new members are Peggy and Ken Farabaugh, Vermont Woods Studios in Vernon, Neil Albert, Shelburne Fine Woodworking in Shelburne, John Lomas, Cotswold Furniture in Whiting and Stowe, Tim Flynn, TimberKnee Wide Plank Flooring in S. Royalton, Jeff Parsons & Bruce Beeken, Beeken Parsons Inc in Shelburne, Bruce Wilkie, Lyndon Furniture, Industrial & Commercial Division in Lyndon, and Glenn Siefert, North Pacific, Certified Division in S. Royalton.

One of the exciting things about North Pacific joining, is that they are going to carry FSC certified maple, birch, oak, cherry and possibly Mahogany lumber and plywood. You can call Glenn at 877-263-3475 to discuss what you need. They are currently beginning the process of getting certified stock as soon as they can.

I am also asking all of our certified members to please come to the quarterly meeting on June 22 at 6:30 instead of 7pm. We need to have a short meeting about upcoming changes that will be taking place in August from SmartWood. Doug Patterson has offered to come and help me to explain the changes to make sure that you are all up-to-date on the rules and regulations. Judy Balch, 802-695-2542 or balch@charter.net.

### Shelburne Farms Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 16, 2006

This year Vermont WoodNet will again have a tent(s) and booths for it's members to purchase. The expenses to members are to cover the cost of tent rental. Let Judy Balch (balch@charter.net, 802-695-2542) know if you are interested. Sign up info/\$ will be available soon. Like last year, every member who has a booth must also incorporate an educational component to their booth/presentation about woodworking, handcraft work, environmental, safety, etc. The topic is up to you. Demonstrating your craft is certainly an acceptable education component to your booth.

The annual meeting and election of the VT WoodNet board of directors for the 2006/07 year will take place on Friday evening from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm also at Shelburne Farms. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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### Membership Report

We currently have 146 active WoodNet members. Of those, 49 have renewed their membership for the 2006-07 year.

Have you renewed yet? If not, send your renewal information, along with a check for your dues, to **Vermont WoodNet, PO Box 4562, Burlington, VT 05406**. Don't forget to include a one or two sentence description of what it is you do or make.

Our membership levels are: Student \$10, Individual \$25, Small Business \$50, Business \$100. Remember, if you want to display your work in the MapleWood Gallery you must be a small business or business member!

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### You're Invited to the Design Competition

The 3rd annual

VERMONT FINE FURNITURE &  
WOOD PRODUCTS DESIGN COMPETITION  
Exhibit: June 17th and 18th

Come and see entries from the 2006 Design Competition on display. Listen to well known commentator, Willem Lange. Debevoise Hall, VT Law School, South Royalton, VT. Pictures of every entry can be seen on the Vermont Wood Design Show web site where you can vote for the Best in Show. Go to **www.vermontwooddesigns.org**

The hours are:

Saturday, June, 17th

10am-4pm Open exhibit & vote for BEST IN SHOW  
4pm-7pm Reception with hors d' oeuvres and cash bar  
4:30-5:30pm Awards Ceremony  
5:30-6:30pm featured speaker, Millem Lange

Sunday, June 18th

11am-3pm Open exhibit

## URGENT REQUEST

### Gallery Needs More Small Items

**The Vermont Maplewood Gallery is allive and well, and thanks to our grants, it looks like we will be opened for business through the end of the year.**

**Again this year the Vermont Maplewood Gallery in Stowe needs many more smaller items. Last year we had just opened our doors and had many larger items but very few smaller and less expensive items. This year we need to be ready. Foot traffic is just beginning to pick up in Stowe and the Gallery will be doing Lots of advertising. Let's be ready! Our goal is for an additional 75 items priced under \$80 by mid June.**

#### Vermont WoodNet's Websites

From part of the RBEG grant from the USDA, our websites, [www.vtwoodnet.org](http://www.vtwoodnet.org) and [www.vtmaplewoodgallery.com](http://www.vtmaplewoodgallery.com), will be revamped in order to better represent our organization and your businesses.

The websites will get a new look, in order to provide a more professional appearance to the visitors. There are several plans on tap which need to be fleshed out including:

- Implement a better search engine,
- Categorize our businesses so that visitors can narrow down a search for a certain product/service,
- Obtain better placement on the major search engines,
- Create individual web pages for our \$100 business members,
- Implement an eCommerce template for the online store on the woodnet.org site,
- Expand the online portfolios of each member whose products are for sale at the Stowe gallery,
- Better promotion of the gallery and its services,
- Design the sites so that they are easily maintainable.

I welcome input from any of you on how to make our sites better. Don't hesitate to pass along your ideas and I'll try my best to make better websites. Sue McLam, 802-439-6156, [SueMcLam@knoxmountain.com](mailto:SueMcLam@knoxmountain.com)

## Las Vegas Market

The Las Vegas Market has been identified as the national show that the wood products industry in Vermont will be attending with help from the VCRD grant. Vermont has 2000 square feet of space in the form of a free standing pavilion measuring 20' x 100' in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Valuable advertising space in the Market show guide (inside cover) has been secured as well as 15 second advertisements on the plasma screens all around the convention center.

There will be a reception at the pavilion at some point during the show that will feature Vermont food products donated by Cabot Cheese and Vermont Maple Products Association. In addition, Vermont Teddy Bear is donating 2 Vermont bears to be given as door prizes along with Cabot gift packets.

Attendees at this point include Newport Furniture, Blue Dog Designs, Vermont Furniture Design, Lyndon Furniture, VWMA, The Furniture Guild, Mark Lackley, Island Pond Wood Products, Vermont Clock Co and VT Woodnet.

VT Woodnet has 200 sq ft and will have products from 15 of our members to show and to sell.

The show will take place at the Las Vegas Convention Center July 25th to 28th.

### Craft Show Booth for Sale

Booth size is 10' x 10' and is adjustable. Includes track lighting, cushioned flooring, 6 pedestals of various sizes, panel walls, and all necessary hardware for installation. There is also a small desk with shelves and a curtained storage area with collapsible shelving. All booth components have custom made Tyvek covers for transporting and storage. This booth has been used at the Baltimore ACC shows and has received many favorable compliments. Excellent condition. \$1,200.00. Call Russ Keil at 802-482-2237.

### WoodNet Board of Directors

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